DBH
Division of Behavioral Health

Missouri Department of Mental Health
Division of Behavioral Health

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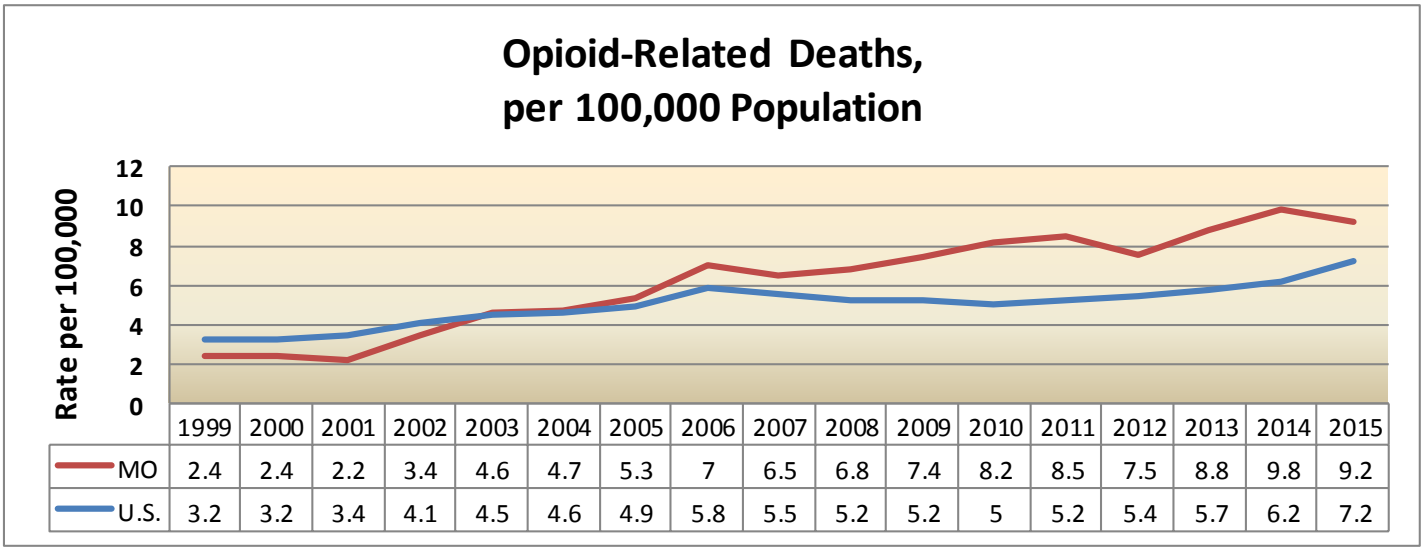
Responding to the Opioid Crisis

Opioid Crisis Grant: In May 2017, the Missouri Department of Mental Health was awarded a State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis Grant. The 2-year grant program is administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The purpose of the program is to 1) increase access to treatment for opioid use disorder, 2) reduce unmet treatment need, and 3) reduce opioid overdose deaths. Like many parts of the country, Missouri has seen an increase in opioid use. The state has seen an increase in hospital inpatient and emergency department visits due to opioid overdose. From 2005 to 2014, visits more than doubled—increasing from about 10,800 to 25,700 in 2014 (MHA, 2015). The state has seen an increase in opioid-related deaths. The rate of deaths has more than quadrupled in the past 15 years. Since 2006, Missouri's rate of opioid-related deaths has been higher than that for the United States (CDC, 2017). The Opioid Crisis grant seeks to implement or expand access to evidence-based programs and practices for prevention and treatment. This includes the use of medications approved by the FDA for the treatment of opioid use disorders. Research has shown that medication assisted treatment (MAT) can reduce opioid use, increase retention in treatment, reduce incidence of infectious diseases associated with IV drug use, and improve birth outcomes for pregnant women (SAMHSA, 2015).



	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
MO	2.4	2.4	2.2	3.4	4.6	4.7	5.3	7	6.5	6.8	7.4	8.2	8.5	7.5	8.8	9.8	9.2
U.S.	3.2	3.2	3.4	4.1	4.5	4.6	4.9	5.8	5.5	5.2	5.2	5	5.2	5.4	5.7	6.2	7.2

Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC WONDER Online Database.

Strategies for Missouri's Opioid Crisis Program:

- ✯ *Expand overdose education and distribution of naloxone.*
- ✯ *Increase physician education and consultation for chronic pain management.*
- ✯ *Implement prevention programming in schools with at-risk student populations.*
- ✯ *Increase the number of physicians who can prescribe FDA-approved medications for the treatment of opioid use disorders.*
- ✯ *Improve access to treatment, including access to FDA-approved medications, for individuals with opioid use disorders.*
- ✯ *Increase access to recovery housing for individuals that need a safe, drug-free environment while engaging in treatment for opioid use disorders.*
- ✯ *Establish recovery community centers in high need areas of the state to provide support and education.*
- ✯ *Increase follow-up and outreach to individuals at risk of dropping out of treatment.*

For more information please contact the Division of Behavioral Health at (573)751-4942 or email: dbhmail@dmh.mo.gov